

STUDY NOTES

HEBREWS: A PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE FAITH

A Series At New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message “The Finality of Jesus and Intimacy with God” on 1/26/20 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this study guide effectively, you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: HEBREWS 1:1-4

THE FINALITY OF JESUS

The book of Hebrews was written to a group of extremely religious people who probably lived in an urban context. They were surrounded by a pluralistic society where people could create constructs based on whatever they wanted. This type of society pushed Christians to the margins because they believed that Jesus was the only way to experience life. The writer of Hebrews wants to communicate a clear picture of who Jesus is throughout the book.

To begin with, the writer focuses on how Jesus is the full expression of God. He says that Jesus is the exact imprint of God — meaning that if someone wants to know the character of God, they can look at Jesus.

The finality of Jesus means that we have all that we need in Jesus to know God.

- *What does it mean to you to know that Jesus didn't just ask us to believe in an unknowable God, but that He showed us the exact character of God?*

INTIMACY WITH JESUS

Many people want intimacy with Jesus. However, they also want to change Jesus to be a version of Him that suits their own desires. In order to experience true intimacy

with Jesus, then we have to accept Him as He is. We can't change Jesus. This means that when Jesus challenges us, we need to let Him do so because He wants something better for us.

You must accept the finality of Jesus to have intimacy with God.

- *If you were never challenged by God, how would it place you as the god in your life?*
- *In what area in your life is Jesus challenging you right now?*

WHY JESUS CAN SPEAK INTO OUR LIVES

The next few verses underscore the greatness of God. They show us why He can speak into our lives. **Read Hebrews 1:5-13.** The writer of Hebrews tells us that the universe is the work of God's hands. He says that Jesus holds everything together by His word. Think of how vast the world is: Jesus holds it all together. Try to imagine how incomprehensible the universe is: Jesus holds that together too. Yet, despite all of that, we are able to approach Jesus personally.

- *What are some things that you can do to try to grasp how big God is? Why should you spend time doing these things?*

COMMITTING TO JESUS

The writer of Hebrews goes on to give instructions as to what we should do with all this information about Jesus. **Read Hebrews 2:1-4.** We are told that we need to pay closer attention to Jesus, or else we will find ourselves unintentionally drifting away. To “pay much closer attention” can actually mean “to become furiously obsessed with.” We must become obsessed with Jesus or else we will find ourselves drifting away.

Discipleship draws us into a furiously obsessive relationship with Jesus.

- *What is your experience with unintentionally drifting away from Jesus?*
- *What are some practices that you can start (or restart) to become more obsessed with Jesus?*
- *Pray with each other to see the greatness of God this week.*